

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: THE PROGRAM ACCORD: REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
UNIVERSITY REFORM, INFORMATION AND TELEVISION, NOMINATIONS
FOR TOP JOBS IN ENTERPRISES WITH STATE PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) ROME 11011; (B) ROME 11012

SUMMARY: THE LAST FOUR OF THE SIX SECTIONS OF THE INTER-PARTY
PROGRAM ACCORD COVER REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS
AND UNIVERSITIES, PRESS AND TELEVISION REGULATIONS, AND
NOMINATIONS TO THE TOP JOBS IN ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE EITHER
PUBLICALLY OWNED OR HAVE A HIGH STATE INVESTMENT. PROPOSALS
UNDER THESE HEADINGS ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS DETAILED THAN THOSE
ON PUBLIC ORDER (REF A) AND THE ECONOMY (REF B), REFLECTING
BOTH DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THE NEGOTIATING PARTIES ON SOME
KEY POINTS IN THESE CATEGORIES AND THE FACT THAT NONE OF
THESE ISSUES IS CONSIDERED AS URGENT AS THE ECONOMY AND PUBLIC
ORDER. END SUMMARY

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1. THE FINAL FOUR SECTIONS OF THE INTER-PARTY PROGRAM
ACCORD, COVERING REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS
AND UNIVERSITIES, INFORMATION AND TELEVISION, AND THE
NOMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS TO HEAD PUBLIC AND STATE
PARTICIPATION ENTERPRISES, ARE MUCH SHORTER AND LESS
DETAILED THAN THE FIRST TWO, WHICH DEAL WITH PUBLIC

ORDER (REF A) AND THE ECONOMY (REF B). THE ISSUES COVERED MAY BE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS:

2. REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT URGES SWIFT ACTION TO CLARIFY AND PUT INTO EFFECT EARLIER LEGISLATION THAT WAS DESIGNED TO TRANSFER WIDE POWERS TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, LOCAL FINANCES, WELFARE, AND HEALTH. LAW 382 OF 1975 ENVISIONED A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY FOR ITALY'S TWENTY REGIONS, WITH ROME PROVIDING MAINLY "PROGRAM LEGISLATION AND POLICY DIRECTION". THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT CONCRETE REFORMS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A SOUND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE WITH CLEARLY DEFINED ROLES FOR THE COMMUNE, THE REGION, AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND WITH INCREASED LATITUDE FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS TO MAKE DECISIONS ADDRESSING LOCAL PROBLEMS. COMMENT: THERE IS SOME DISSATISFACTION IN THE DC WITH THIS SECTION OF THE ACCORD. NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE THAT A NUMBER OF DC PARLIAMENTARIANS FEEL THAT TOO MUCH POWER IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO PCI-CONTROLLED REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DISSENT MIGHT REPRESENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD. NO DECISION WAS REACHED ON THE QUESTION OF ABOLISHING THE PROVINCES. END COMMENT

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3. SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES: THE DC AND THE ABSTAINING PARTIES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR THE REFORM OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE OVERCROWDED ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES. THE ACCORD PROPOSES THAT MANDATORY SCHOOLING BE EXTENDED THROUGH AGE 15 AND THAT PRE-UNIVERSITY COURSES BE EXTENDED THROUGH AGE 18. CITING THE NEED FOR EDUCATION TO RESPOND TO THE "REAL NEEDS OF PROFESSIONALISM DEMANDED BY THE SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT", THE DOCUMENT CALLS FOR PROGRAMS TO "ARREST IRRATIONAL GROWTH AND THE PROGRESSIVE LOWERING OF QUALITY" IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND REQUESTS A POLICY AIMED AT ATTAINING "THE CONCRETE OBJECTIVES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION". IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SHORT COURSES BE INSTITUTED FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS AND THAT STUDENTS BE REDISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO RELIEVE THE MOST OVER-CROWDED SCHOOLS. ALSO PROPOSED ARE REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE FACULTY MEMBERS TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO TEACHING AND WHICH WOULD PREVENT STUDENTS WHO HAVE FAILED TO TAKE REQUIRED SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES FROM ENROLLING IN THE MORE SPECIALIZED FACULTIES. THE PARTIES AFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT'S RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE IN PUBLIC AND PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC GOVERNING BODIES, BUT WARN AGAINST BEHAVIOR WHICH PRODUCES "UNPRODUCTIVE CONFLICT" AND VIOLATES THE RIGHT OF OTHERS TO TEACH AND STUDY. COMMENT: THE SECTION

OF THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE SCHOOLS IS EXTREMELY VAGUE AND OFFERS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PCI DOES NOT WISH TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH MORE DRAMATIC REFORMS (SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED IN EDUCATION MINISTER MALFATTI'S UNIVERSITY BILL, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED EARLY THIS YEAR) AND THEREBY FURTHER JEOPARDIZED ITS ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE STUDENT LEFT. END COMMENT

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4. INFORMATION AND TELEVISION: THE DOCUMENT CALLS FOR EARLY PRESENTATION TO THE PARLIAMENT OF A PRESS REFORM LAW WHICH WOULD "FAVOR TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND NEW EDITORIAL INITIATIVES, BLOCK THE PROCESS OF THE CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP", AND AID FAILING NEWSPAPERS TO OVERCOME THEIR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. IN PARTICULAR, SUCH A LAW SHOULD PROVIDE PUBLIC FUNDS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF JOURNALS WHICH ARE LOSING MONEY TO PREVENT THEIR "CONCENTRATION IN PRIVATE HANDS". THE PARTIES RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR REGULATIONS TO CONTROL THE PRIVATE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED THROUGHOUT ITALY SINCE THE 1976 CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULING WHICH DECLARED THE GOVERNMENT'S STRICT MONOPOLY ON THE BROADCAST MEDIA UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT CALLS ON THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAI-TV TO AVOID THE POLITICAL POLARIZATION OF ITALY'S TWO PUBLICLY OWNED TELEVISION NETWORKS AND URGES EARLY STEPS TO ESTABLISH A THIRD NETWORK WHICH WOULD BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH A DECENTRALIZED STRUCTURE TIED TO

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. ALSO PROPOSED IS A COMPREHENSIVE CODE TO GOVERN THE LICENSING AND ASSIGNMENT OF FREQUENCIES TO PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATIONS. THE ACCORD ENVISIONS A GOVERNING BODY COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PARLIAMENT, THE BUREAUCRACY, AND THE REGIONS TO ADMINISTER THIS CODE, AND MEASURES TO PROVIDE PROGRAMMING AND ADVERTISING STANDARDS AND TO PREVENT CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP OF THE PRIVATE STATIONS.

5. NOMINATIONS: NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE NOMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS TO HEAD STATE ENTERPRISES OR CORPORATIONS WITH STATE PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT OUTLINES CRITERIA UPON WHICH SUCH NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE BASED AND OUTLINES PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN CONSULT PARLIAMENT ON THEM. THE REQUIREMENTS SET DOWN FOR SUCH NOMINEES ARE "COMPETENCE AND ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONALISM" AND ACCEPTABILITY IN PARLIAMENT. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PARLIAMENT BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF COMING NOMINATIONS AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NOMINEES SO THAT THE COMPETENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CAN DELIVER AN OPINION (WITHIN TWENTY DAYS) ON THE INDIVIDUAL BEING CONSIDERED. IF THE PARLIAMENTARY DECISION IS UNFAVORABLE, THE GOVERNMENT COULD WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION WITHOUT PROCEEDING TO A FORMAL VOTE IN PARLIAMENT. SIMILAR PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA ARE URGED IN THE CASE OF NOMINATIONS MADE BY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THESE PROVISIONS ARE DESIGNED TO FACILITATE "HORSE-TRADING" BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR CONTROL OF THE STATE PARTICIPATION ENTERPRISES. GARDNER

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